



## Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center's (CIHEC) QUERI Partnered Evaluation Initiative

# CIHEC

*Complementary and Integrative  
Health Evaluation Center*

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**Operations Partner:** VA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation (OPCC&CT)

**Funding:** VA QUERI (PEC 16-354)

**Years of effort:** Funded beginning 2016

**Description:** The overarching goal of the Complementary and Integrative Health Evaluation Center's (CIHEC) QUERI Partnered Evaluation Center is to improve Veterans' health and experiences of care through increased availability and use of evidence-based CIH approaches.

### Current Projects:

#### 1. Data Nexus

POC: Steve Zeliadt, PhD

What: Determining CIH therapy use and effectiveness by extracting, cleaning and analyzing CDW and CHOICE administrative data nationally on a regular basis. Creating a national cohort of VA healthcare users to be able to determine the prevalence of CIH therapy use.

Purpose: Producing products to dissemination information and address OPCC&CT's key questions

Manuscripts/Reports:

- Compendium on Use of Complementary and Integrative Health Therapies and Chiropractic Care at the VA. Volume 1: Use and Characteristics of Users, 2017-2019. Taylor SL, Gelman H, DeFaccio R, Hawrilenko M, McGinty N, Resnick A, Thomas E, Tomlanovich NC, Toyama J, Kligler B, Jents M, Whitehead A, Zeliadt S. October 2020. Available at:

[https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/docs/CIHEC\\_Compndium\\_2020\\_APR122021.pdf](https://www.va.gov/WHOLEHEALTH/docs/CIHEC_Compndium_2020_APR122021.pdf)



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## 2. Getting the Word Out: Disseminating the Evidence on CIH Therapies

### 2a. Registry of Current Research on Veterans and Complementary and Integrative Health Therapies and Chiropractic Care

POC: Mike McGowan, MA, Stephanie Taylor, PhD

What: Compiling and maintaining a registry of all VA-, NIH- and DoD-funded research being conducted among Veterans using CIH therapies.

Purpose: Enables VA clinicians, researchers and ORD Program Managers to be aware of the research being conducted. Builds capacity for VA CIH research because it highlights who is doing what, so researchers can connect with each other if interested in collaborating.

Manuscripts/Reports:

[Registry of Current Research on Veterans and Complementary and Integrative Health Therapies and Chiropractic Care \(va.gov\)](#)

### 2b. Library of Research Articles on Veterans and Complementary and Integrative Health Therapies and Chiropractic Care

POC: Mike McGowan, MA, Stephanie Taylor, PhD

What: Excel database of scientific research papers on Veterans and CIH therapies.

Purpose: Enables VA clinicians, researchers and staff to keep abreast of the research being conducted on Veterans. Updated twice a year and circulated nationally, in/outside the VA.

Manuscripts/Reports:

[Library of Research Articles on Veterans and CIH Therapies - Whole Health \(va.gov\)](#)

### 2c. Guest Editors of Medical Care Journal on Research conducted CIH and Veterans

POC: Rani Elwy, PhD, Stephanie Taylor, PhD

2021: <https://journals.lww.com/lww-medicalcare/toc/2020/09001>

### 2d. HSR&D CIH Cyberseminars

POC: Rani Elwy, PhD

What: This bimonthly forum presents the latest in CIH research from within and outside the VA.

## 3. VA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation's Veterans' CIH Experience Survey

POC: Stephanie Taylor, PhD, Steve Zeliadt, PhD, Briana Lott, MPH, Alex Kloehn, MPH

What: CIHEC manages this survey for VA OPCC&CT. Starting Spring 2021, this is a 4-time period, multi-mode survey of approximately 18,000 Veterans using CIH therapies to collect data on:

1. 5 domains relevant to chronic pain: anxiety, depression, well-being, fatigue, quality of life
2. Self-empowerment to take care of health
3. Tele-CIH use

Purpose: Analyzing it in the 4-year APPROACH HSR&D-funded study



#### 4. Tele-Whole Health Evaluation

POC: Barbara Bokhour, PhD, Stephanie Taylor, PhD

What: In collaboration with EPCC QUERI PEI, we are conducting 4 tasks to examine 1) national tele-Whole Health use, 2) facility-level facilitators/barriers to delivery and implementation strategies, and patients' perspectives of effectiveness and implementation, both 3) qualitatively and 4) quantitatively.

Purpose: EPCC and CIHEC QUERI Centers are evaluating several aspects of Tele-WH.

#### 5. Resiliency Mindfulness for Clinician and Staff Burnout

POC: Susan Stockdale, PhD, Briana Lott, MPH, and Stephanie Taylor, PhD

What: Collaborating with Dr. Greg Serpa, a national leader in mindfulness, to develop and pilot-test a brief, 3-month voluntary program for providers and staff that teaches mindfulness, self-compassion, and practical skills to bolster their resiliency. This program was based on a version that was tested in 2017 to support Homeless PACT in Los Angeles.

Purpose: Addressing clinician burnout is a national priority.

#### Older Projects

##### 1. Battlefield Acupuncture 2016-2019

What: Quantitatively evaluated BFA effectiveness in reducing pain and qualitatively evaluated BFA implementation.

- [The Effectiveness and Implementation of Auricular Acupuncture for Pain in Routine Clinical Care at VA Facilities.](#) Taylor SL, Zeliadt SB, Giannitrapani K, Osei-Bonsu P, Thomas ER, Olson J, Federman D., Kligler B. *Pain Medicine*. 2021 Mar 26:pnaa474.
- [Does Offering Battlefield Acupuncture Lead to Subsequent Use of Traditional Acupuncture?](#) Thomas E, Taylor SL, Olson J, Gelman H, Coggeshall S, Zeliadt S. *Medical Care*. Sept 2020; 58(9).
- [Patient Feedback on the Effectiveness of Auricular Acupuncture on Pain in Routine Clinical Care: The Experience of 11,406 Veterans.](#) Zeliadt SB, Thomas ER, Federman D, Taylor SL. *Medical Care*. Sept 2020; 58(9).
- [Provider Perspectives of Battlefield Acupuncture: Advantages, Disadvantages and Its Potential Role in Reducing Opioid Use for Pain.](#) Giannitrapani K, Ackland PE, Holliday J, Olson J, Kligler B, and Taylor SL. *Medical Care*. Sept 2020; 58(9).
- [Challenges and Strategies for Implementing Battlefield Acupuncture in the VA: A Qualitative Study of Provider Perspectives.](#) Taylor SL, Giannitrapani K, Ackland PE, Holliday J, Reddy K, Drake D, Federman DG, Kligler B. *Medical Acupuncture*. Oct. 2018; 30(5); DOI: 10.1089/acu.2018.1286.
- [Battlefield Acupuncture in the Veterans Health Administration: Effectiveness in individual and group settings for pain and pain comorbidities.](#) Federman DG, Thomas ER, Carbone GF, Zeliadt SB, Taylor SL. *Medical Acupuncture*. 2018 Sept 5.



## 2. Environmental Scan 2017-2019

What: Conducted a 2017-18 national survey of VA medical centers' provision of CIH therapies.

- [Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches Offered in the Veterans Health Administrations: Results of a National Organizational Survey](#). Farmer M, McGowan M, Yuan A, Osawe U, Taylor S. *J Altern Complement Med*. 2021 Mar;27(S1):S124-S130.

## 3. PRIMIER-I (Patients Receiving Integrative Medicine Interventions Effectiveness Registry Implementation) 2017-2018

What: Tested an innovative approach for the electronic collection of patient-reported outcomes in routine clinical settings.

- [Participating in Complementary and Integrative Health Approaches is Associated with Veterans' Patient-reported Outcomes Over Time](#). Elwy AR, Taylor SL, Zhao S, McGowan M, Plumb DN, Westleigh W, Gaj L, Yan GW, Bokhour BG. *Medical Care*. 2020 Sep;58 Suppl 2 9S:S125-S132.

## 4. Veteran Survey on CIH use and Interest 2016-2018

What: Conducted a national survey using the Veteran Insight Panel to understand Veterans' interest in, use of and satisfaction with 26 CIH therapies.

- [Complementary and Integrated Health Approaches: What Do Veterans Use and Want](#). Taylor SL, Hoggatt K, Kligler B. *JGIM*. 2019 34(7), 1192-1199.